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3/25/04

Docket No.: T2171.0184/P184
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



re Patent Application of: Masaki Katayama, et al.

Application No.: 09/593,866

Group Art Unit: 2643

Filed: June 14, 2000

Examiner: L. Lao

For: AN AUDIO SYSTEM CONDUCTING
DIGITAL SIGNAL PROCESSING, A
CONTROL METHOD THEREOF, A
RECORDING MEDIA ON WHICH THE
CONTROL METHOD IS RECORDED

Confirmation No. 8166

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Timing of Filing of the Information Disclosure Statement:

- This IDS is being filed before the First Office Action¹.
- This IDS is being filed after the issuance of the First Office Action but before the issuance of a Final Office Action².

¹ The IDS should, where possible, include a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

² The IDS *must* include either a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

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- This IDS is being filed after the issuance of a Final Office Action but before the payment of the Final Fee³.

Certifications:

If checked, the undersigned makes the following statement(s):

- Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; or

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

- Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Fee Required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) or 1.97(d)(2):

- If checked, the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is attached.

³ The IDS *must* include *both* a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) *and* the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Copies of Information:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a), the following are enclosed:

- A legible copy⁴ of each document (or relevant portion thereof) is cited in the attached PTO/SB/08.
- With respect to any information which is not in English, a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, is attached. This concise explanation is provided by way of:
 - A translation of the relevant portions of the non-English language information⁵;
 - A statement explaining the relevant portions of the non-English language information;
 - A copy [and, where not in the English language, a translation] of at least the relevant portion(s)⁶ of the communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application in which the information was cited; or
 - This information is contained in the specification of the present application.

⁴ A legible copy of the document is not required if (1) the information was previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office and considered by the Office in a prior U.S. application to which this application claims priority, provided that the prior application is properly identified in this IDS, and (2) the IDS submitted in the earlier application complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) – (c). This exception does not apply to information cited in an International Application.

⁵ 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii) *requires* that an English language translation be provided when a translation of the document, or portion thereof, “is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).”

⁶ The relevant portion is that portion which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies, or merely an “X”, “Y”, or “A” indication on a search report. MPEP §609 III A(3).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), copies of the cited documents are not enclosed as they were provided in application Serial No. , filed , which the present application relies upon for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

Materiality:

Whether or not the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement is "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

In the event the actual fee is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

Dated: March 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	09/593,866-Conf. #8166
				Filing Date	June 14, 2000
				First Named Inventor	Masaki Katayama
				Art Unit	2643
				Examiner Name	L. Lao
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	T2171.0184/P184

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
BA	JP 5-165443 (w/ Abstract)		07-02-1993	Sony Corp.	
BB	JP 5-173516 (w/ Abstract)		07-13-1993	Sony Corp.	
BC	JP 58-110815		07-28-1983		
BD	JP 57-162685		04-07-1981		
BE	JP 8-336200 (w/ Abstract)		12-17-1996	Matsushita Electric Ind Co Ltd	
BF	JP 7-129174 (w/ Abstract)		05-19-1995	Yamaha Corp	
BG	JP 9-097157 (w/ Abstract)		04-08-1997	Sony Corp	
BH	JP 10-200350 (w/ Abstract)		07-31-1998	Sony Corp	

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			
CA	Japanese Office Action mailed February 17, 2004				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ²

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¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.